

EASTERN UNIVERSITY

Baccalaureate Service Friday, May 3rd, 2024 - 7:30 p.m.

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania
and via Livestream



Prelude

Academic Processional

Hymn

"Crown Him with Many Crowns" by Bridges/Elvey

Led by Kiersten Brecht (Class of 2024), Ashlynne Pillai (Class of 2024), Amelia Thomas – piano (Class of 2024)

Welcome

Joseph B. Modica
University Chaplain

Invocation

Rachael Alfaro
Assistant Professor of Biology

Scripture Reading

Amy Richards
Affiliate Professor and Chair of Philosophy
Faculty Fellow of the Templeton Honors College Masters of Arts in Teaching

Musical Selection

"Lean on Me" by Bill Withers arranged by Steven Ford

*Directed by Scot Stevens sung by The Angels of Harmony (Eastern University Gospel Choir) Featuring: Syreeta Lawrence
Accompanied by: Christian Hankerson (Class of 2024), Jalen White, Micah Davis, and Steven Ford*

Reflections

Kaela G. Miles, B.A. Biological Studies, MAAC Fellow
Emmanuel G. Soltero, B.A. History, W. Wilson Goode Scholar

Greetings

Ronald A. Matthews
President

Community Prayer

Delano Shane
Dean of Students

Special Music

"Revelation 19" by A. Jeffrey LaValley, "Total Praise" by Richard Smallwood

*Directed by Steven Ford sung by The Angels of Harmony (Eastern University Gospel Choir) Featuring: Jordyn Wortham
Accompanied by: Christian Hankerson (Class of 2024), Jalen White, Micah Davis, and Steven Ford*

Introduction of Speaker

Kenton L. Sparks
Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

Baccalaureate Address

"To Be, or Not to Be, That is The Question," Randolph Walters
Special Assistant to the President for Diversity, Equity and Belonging
Professor of Counseling and Psychology

Hymn

"Great is Thy Faithfulness" by Chisholm/Runyan

Led by Kiersten Brecht (Class of 2024), Ashlynne Pillai (Class of 2024), Amelia Thomas – piano (Class of 2024)

Prayer of Dedication

Joseph B. Modica
University Chaplain

Lighting of the Candles

"Jesus is the Light of the World"
Written, composed, & sung by Ronald A. Matthews

Benediction

Kimberly Bass
Lecturer of Social Work

Academic Recessional

Postlude

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 39:2-6

New International Version

2 The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. 3 When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, 4 Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. 5 From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. 6 So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.

HISTORY OF BACCALAUREATE

Baccalaureate (noun): noun: a celebratory service held before commencement, containing a farewell sermon to the graduating class. The baccalaureate service originated with an English statute of 1432 that required every degree candidate at the University of Oxford (England) to deliver a sermon in Latin. British practice was continued in colonial America, and baccalaureate services have since become an integral part of commencement exercises, marking the completion of an educational program, just as opening convocation marks the beginning.

The first baccalaureate address at Emory College was delivered in Oxford, Georgia, by Bishop William Capers in 1940 (<http://oxford.emory.edu/>).

Eastern University's first Baccalaureate service was held in the spring of 1959 in the gymnasium on the St. Davids campus

Many thanks to Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church for allowing us to hold this special service in their sanctuary since 2001.